

May 2022



CONSULAR NEWS

Inside:

- Cover Message
- Ask the Consul
- This Month
- Health Resources
- Travel & Security
- Contact Info



Hello, everyone.

My name is Robert Sanders, and I am the Political Counselor here at U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince.

Our mission in the political section is to support the Embassy by advocating U.S. foreign policy with our Haitian counterparts and representing the U.S. government and its policies in country. Additionally, we observe and report on the political developments in Haiti. Some of the political activities we monitor include tracking interactions between various Haitian political actors, updates on public safety measures, readiness for elections, court cases, and sometimes even civil unrest.

Protests and clashes in the community pose a significant threat to everyone -- American citizens being no exception. In turn, part of the Embassy's responsibility is to ensure that U.S. citizens receive timely and accurate security information to help ensure their safety while they are abroad. That is why this month's newsletter focuses on the Department of State's No Double Standard Policy.

Please read the following pages of the newsletter to find out more about what the No Double Standard Policy means, how it is relevant to you and your travels, and how to be sure to get the latest alerts from the Embassy. Remember, the U.S. Department of State's travel advisory for Haiti remains at its highest level, which is "Level 4: Do Not Travel" due to ongoing kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest. However, if you find that you must travel to Haiti, there are resources and information readily available for you to access as you finalize your plans. Please review the State Department's [Haiti travel advisory page](#) and sign up for our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP), especially as the region is headed into hurricane season (June 1 until November 30).

Robert Sanders,
Political Counselor

Ask the Consul

CONSULAR NEWS

This month, we're providing more information on the No Double Standard policy and how you can remain safe while traveling abroad.

Q: What does “No Double Standard” mean and how does it affect me?

A: No Double Standard is a State Department policy that ensures all Americans citizens receive timely information of security events that could threaten their safety while traveling abroad. This policy intends to inform any American citizen who is in a foreign country, whether in an official or non-official capacity, with accurate and up-to-date alerts so that they may take appropriate action to reduce risks to their safety and wellbeing.

Q: What would a No Double Standard message look like? How would I be informed?

A: Messages that fall under the No Double Standard policy have a variety of themes. They could include advisories on weather events like hurricanes and earthquakes, political activity like protests and demonstrations, and other country specific issues. As these events occur in their respective areas, American citizens will inevitably be exposed to local media coverage and reporting. It is important to remember, though, that all Embassy communication will come through its official channels. Beyond the Embassy's official social media platforms on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), the Embassy will also share messages through the STEP profile.

Useful Links

- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(S.T.E.P.\) Website](#)
- [State Department Haiti Travel Advisory Page](#)
- [Before You Go — Traveler's Checklist](#)
- ACSPAP@state.gov

Q: What can I do to make sure that I receive the most up-to-date information?

A: As always, be sure to complete all or as much information as possible in your Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) profile. This service is available for free to all American citizens traveling outside the United States to receive alerts and information from the U.S. Embassy in their country of temporary transit or visit. Please also be sure to share your information with family and friends back home so that they know where you are. Finally, please consider reviewing the State Department's travel advisory page and checklist resources linked to the left for more guidance.

May 18: Haitian Flag Day



May is Haitian Heritage Month! Haitian Heritage Month was first organized by members of the Haitian Diaspora in Boston, Massachusetts in 1998. Today, Haitian Heritage Month has spread

across the United States as a special occasion to celebrate and highlight the rich culture, distinctive art, delicious food, and deep traditions of Haiti and its people. May 18th is particularly important and known as Haitian Flag Day, one of the major patriotic holidays celebrated in Haiti and throughout the Diaspora.

Haiti's current flag is a bicolor, horizontal flag of blue and red, with a white panel bearing the coat of arms. The coat of arms depicts a trophy of weapons atop a green hill and a royal palm symbolizing independence. The palm is topped by the "Cap of Liberty" and the motto "L'Union fait la Force" ("unity makes strength") appears on a white ribbon below the arrangement. However, the flag we see today was not always the one seen

throughout Haitian history with the picture seen to the right showing how the flag has evolved from the country's independence in 1803 until its most current design.



National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May is also National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. This recognition of AANHPI peoples and culture originated as a 10-day celebration in the beginning of May in 1977. Since then, AANHPI Heritage Month expanded to include the entire month, with May being officially designated as AAPI Heritage Month in 1992.

AANHPI peoples and cultures have made innumerable contributions to American culture and society. The following is an excerpt from the White House's Proclamation on AANHPI Heritage Month this year with the full text [available here](#):

This month, we celebrate our fellow Americans from AA and NHPI communities and pay tribute to all they have done to help fulfill the promise of America for all. Together, let us recommit ourselves to building a country in which every American — regardless of who they are, where they come from, or what they look like — has an equal opportunity to thrive.

Health Resources & COVID-19

COVID-19

For updated information about COVID-19 in Haiti, please visit the [Embassy website](#). You'll find information about:

- **Where to get vaccinated**
- **Where to get tested**
- **Entry/exit requirements**
- **Quarantine guidelines**

Haiti—Level 1: Low Level of COVID-19

Make sure you are vaccinated and up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines before traveling to Haiti. Anyone 2 years or older should properly wear a well-fitting mask in indoor public spaces. [Learn more from the CDC](#).

General Health Guidance

- Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies.
- Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are in your area. Please visit the Embassy website for a list of hospitals and medical professionals in Haiti.
- Always keep basic medications and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- Always have medical insurance, including medevac insurance. If you need to be medically evacuated out of Haiti, you should contact a medevac company or an air ambulance service. Visit the Embassy website for a list of Air Ambulance Services.

CONSULAR NEWS



Protect
From
COVID-19.



Useful Links

- [Embassy COVID-19 Page](#)
- [Travel Requirements](#)
- [Air Ambulance Services](#)
- [Hospitals in Haiti](#)

Haiti—Level 4: Do Not Travel

The U.S. Department of State has renewed the highest level “[Level 4: Do Not Travel](#)” travel advisory for Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest.

If you are in Haiti:

- Sign-up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in Haiti, and help the Embassy contact you in case of emergency. Enroll here: step.state.gov
- Remember that demonstrations, tire burning, and roadblocks are frequent, unpredictable, and can turn violent at any time. Emergency response, including ambulance service, is limited or non-existent.
- Always carry your cellphone and ensure it is charged before you travel. Ensure you have important numbers programmed into your phone. Consider using code names for family or friends.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds. If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area.
- Arrange airport transfers and hotels in advance, or have your host meet you upon arrival.
- Travel by vehicle to minimize walking in public, and travel in groups of at least two people whenever possible.
- Always keep vehicle doors and windows locked with valuables out of sight.
- Exercise caution and alertness, especially when driving through markets and other traffic-congested areas.
- Do not travel in areas unfamiliar to you and be aware that navigation apps are highly unreliable in Haiti.
- Do not physically resist any robbery or kidnapping attempt.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in good driving condition.
- Travel at times when traffic is expected to be lighter; avoid travel after dark in Port-au-Prince.
- Ensure adequate spacing between vehicles to provide options for evading a potentially dangerous situation.
- Patronize shops or restaurants that provide secure, enclosed, and well-lit parking.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member or friend, of where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Minimize broadly publishing your travel plans on social media.

**STEP**

Smart Traveler
Enrollment Program

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Contact Info

Email

- American Citizen Services: acspap@state.gov
- Visas: support-haiti@ustraveldocs.com

Phone

+509-2229-8000

Websites

- [American Citizen Services Website](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's Website](#)

Address

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince
Boulevard 15 Octobre
Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

CONSULAR NEWS



Useful Links

- [U.S. Embassy Facebook](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Twitter](#)
- [Haiti Travel Advisory](#)
- [American Citizen Services Facebook](#)
- [American Citizen Services Twitter](#)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)
- [Make an ACS Appointment](#)
- [COVID-19 Information in Haiti](#)

This newsletter is published by the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Please pass this newsletter along to other interested people. If you would like to receive your own copy directly, sign up through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)). Comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter are welcomed at acspap@state.gov.